



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reward Offered in Sea Lion Killing in Del Norte County, Calif.

(Aug. 4, 2010) — The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for illegally shooting a sea lion in Del Norte County, Calif.

The Case:

According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, on July 24, staff and volunteers from the North Coast Marine Mammal Center responded to a call about a yearling sea lion who was found wounded on a beach at the mouth of the Smith River. The sea lion had been shot with an arrow and died on July 25.

“This cruel shooting is a serious crime and we implore anyone with information to come forward,” said Jennifer Fearing, California senior state director for The HSUS. “The Humane Society of the United States is greatly appreciative of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration’s investigation.”

Killing a sea lion is a violation of the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act and is punishable by up to a year in prison and up to a \$100,000 fine.

Poaching:

- Wildlife officials estimate that for every wild animal killed legally — tens of millions of animals per year — another is killed illegally.
- Every year, thousands of poachers are arrested nationwide; however, it is estimated that only 1 percent to 5 percent of poached animals are discovered by law enforcement.
- Poachers injure or kill wildlife anytime, anywhere and sometimes do so in particularly cruel ways. Wildlife officials report that poachers often commit other crimes as well.
- The HSUS and HSWLT work with state and federal wildlife agencies to offer rewards of \$2,500 for information leading to arrest and conviction of suspected poachers.

The Investigators:

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the NOAA fisheries hotline at 1-800-853-1964 or Special Agent Tim Broadman at 707-826-9247. Callers may remain anonymous.

The HSUS Media Contact:

Liz Bergstrom, 301-258-1455, ebergstrom@humanesociety.org

The HSUS and HSWLT work to curb poaching across the country. Visit humanesociety.org/poaching for more information.

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization — backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty — On the Web at humanesociety.org.

Follow The HSUS on [Twitter](#). See our work for animals on your iPhone by searching “HumaneTV” in the App Store.

Since 1993 the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, alone or in partnership with other conservation groups, has participated in the protection of more than 1.8 million acres of wildlife habitat in 37 states, including 1,827 acres in California, and eight foreign countries. On all properties owned by the Trust or protected by the Trust's conservation easement, both here and abroad, we prohibit recreational and commercial hunting and trapping and restrict logging and development. The Trust's commitment to these principles will never change as we continue to assist caring landowners to make their property permanent, safe homes for wildlife. Join our online community at wildlifelandtrust.org.

Follow the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust on [Twitter](#).

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